

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7180

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A), USIRJC
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT AND USIRJC

REF: A) STATE 145159 B) TEHRAN 6742 C) TEHRAN
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1. IN JULY 14 MEETING AMBASSADOR AND DCM HAD WITH MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE HUSHANG ANSARY, SUBSTANCE OF USIRJC COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS DISCUSSED. ANSARY SAID THAT ALL IRANIAN CHAIRMEN ARE STANDING BY AND SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET WITH U.S. COUNTERPARTS AT LEAST TWO DAYS IN ADVANCE OF COMMISSION MEETING. POSSIBLE EXCEPTION IS NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMITTEE, BUT ANSARY CHECKING WITH ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OF IRAN PRESIDENT AKBAR ETEMAD AND WILL LET US KNOW SHORTLY. IN THIS CONNECTION, ANSARY AMENABLE TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT COMMITTEE BE REDESIGNATED "ENERGY COMMITTEE" AND ITS MANDATE ENLARGED TO INCLUDE COOPERATION IN SOLAR ENERGY AND OTHER ENERGY-RELATED FIELDS. WITH RESPECT TO ALL COMMITTEES, ANSARY NEEDS TO KNOW ASAP NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL CHAIR ON U.S. SIDE, AS WELL AS COMPOSITION AND NUMBER OF OTHERS ATTENDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS. ASSUMPTION IS THAT ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN TEHRAN.

2. WITH RESPECT TO SUBSTANCE OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS, ANSARY FELT IT WOULD BE USEFUL OCCASION TO REVIEW MINUTES AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAST COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND
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PROGRESS, OR LACK THEREOF, THAT HAS OCCURRED SUBSEQUENTLY.

HE WOULD ALSO LIKE COMMITTEES TO COME UP WITH "NEW IDEAS" FOR FUTURE COOPERATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE STRESSED DESIRABILITY OF JOINT VENTURES, EITHER HERE OR IN THE U.S., AND ALLUDED TO THE RECENT IRAN/OCCIDENTAL OIL AGREEMENT AS A GOOD EXAMPLE. ANSARY ALSO MENTIONED SEVERAL PROJECTS THAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED EARLIER BUT THAT SEEMED TO HAVE LANGUISHED. SPECIFICALLY, THE IDEA OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SPECIAL PORT WHICH COULD SERVE AS A REGIONAL ENTRY/EXIT AND TRANSHIPMENT FACILITY FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE AND TECHNOLOGY. AN EXPORT REFINERY AND A JOINT VENTURE IN ELECTRONICS WAS ALSO MENTIONED. WE TOUCHED ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH COOPERATION ON LNG AND THE FRANK ASSESSMENT THAT FEA ADMINISTRATOR ZARB HAD RECENTLY PROVIDED TO THE NIOC. ANSARY HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THIS ASSESSMENT, WHICH WE UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE HIM FORTHWITH.

3. THE OVERALL THRUST OF ANSARY'S COMMENTS WAS THAT WE NEEDED TO COME UP WITH SERIOUS SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND TO MOVE FORWARD ON THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. IF, FOR POLICY OR OTHER PRACTICAL REASONS, WE WERE NOT PREPARED TO MAKE COMMITMENTS--SUCH AS ON AN EXPORT REFINERY--THEN HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL OR DESIRABLE TO COVER THESE MATTERS IN GENERAL TERMS. IN OTHER WORDS, ANSARY NOT ABSOLUTELY WEDDED TO IDEA THAT ALL COMMITTEES MEET UNLESS THERE IS PROSPECT FOR SUBSTANTATIVE PROGRESS TO BE ACHIEVED.

4. FINDINGS OF COMMITTEES WILL BE FORWARDED TO COMMISSION FOR RATIFICATION AND INCLUSION IN A FINAL COMMUNIQUE AS DESIRED.

5. WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTTEL A. UNFORTUNATELY, SHORAKA HAD NOT BROUGHT THESE MATTERS TO ANSARY'S ATTENTION AS IMPLIED BY REFTTEL B. NEVERTHELESS, ANSARY UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE US WITH A RESPONSE. IN CONNECTION WITH ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, HE THOUGHT THAT OUR SUGGESTION THAT EMBASSY REPRESENT USIRJC TECHNICIANS' INTEREST VIS-A-VIS MFA AND OTHER GOI MINISTRIES AND/OR AGENCIES WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCEPTABLE. WE NOTED DIFFICULTY MFA SEEMED TO BE HAVING WITH THIS CONCEPT. ANSARY RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD SEE IF HE COULD NOT OVERRULE MFA. WE MADE CLEAR WE WERE NOT SEEKING A SPECIAL STATUS FOR TECHNICIANS BUT ONLY THEIR RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES PROVIDED FOR BY GOI 1966 LAW. WE ALSO TOUCHED ON INCOME TAX PROBLEM, REVIEWING OUR DISCUSSION WITH SHORAKA ON THIS SUBJECT. ANSARY SAID THAT IF THERE

WAS ANY WAY POSSIBLE UNDER IRANIAN LAW TO AVOID THIS
QUESTION IT WOULD BE DONE. IF NOT, USG COULD ADD
INCOME TAX TECHNICIANS REQUIRED TO PAY IN IRAN TO
ITS BILL TO THE GOI. ANSARY DID NOT HAVE ANY
SUBSTANTATIVE COMMENT TO MAKE ABOUT REASONS COOPERATIVE
PROJECTS HAD NOT MOVED FORWARD OTHER THAN TO COMMENT
THAT THIS COULD BE DISCUSSED IN COMMITTEE MEETINGS.
HELMS

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